

DESOLATE SCENE

In the Supreme Court Part of the Capitol Building.

THE RESULT OF THE EXPLOSION

AND FIRE SUNDAY EVENING. THE GREATEST DAMAGE WAS DONE IN THE MARSHAL'S OFFICE AND IN THE STORAGE ROOM WHERE VALUABLE OLD RECORDS WERE KEPT—MANUSCRIPT OPINIONS OF THE EARLY JUSTICES OF THE SUPREME COURT COMPLETELY CONSUMED—THE TEMPORARY QUARTERS FOR THE SITTINGS OF THE COURT.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Nov. 7.—The big capitol building was the scene of wreck and desolation to-day, following the explosion and fire, which wrought such serious havoc last night. The engines and firemen had gone, and in their place a small army of workmen was carrying off the debris of brick and mortar, charred wood work, soaked and half burned official papers and documents, which had been heaped in confusion in the basement and sub-basement, under the quarters occupied by the United States supreme court. An examination of the court room showed that the damage was confined to discolored walls and ceilings and soaked carpets. No substantial damage had been done. The bench occupied by the justices was uninjured, and as the benches and papers left by some of the justices under paper weights, remained unharmed. But while the fire had made no progress here, smoke and water had left this chamber, which had been so long regarded a model of classic beauty, in a sorry condition. The windows and sashes of the fine old colonial building flanking the bench are in ruins. The frescoed ceilings, which recently had been done over, are blurred and spoiled. The carpets are soaked, while the whole chamber has the damp, smoky aspect usually following a fire. The personal effects of the justices, robes, etc., were found to be uninjured. The main loss of the court was in the marshal's office, and in the storage room, where valuable old records are kept. The extent of this last loss is not yet exactly determined, but the court officers expect to make a critical examination during the day.

Sergeant-at-Arms Bright, of the senate, was busy during the morning making temporary provisions for the sessions of the court. Senator McMillan's committee room on the District of Columbia was hastily prepared with bench and seats for the justices, and a dozen rows of seats for attorneys and counsel. The quarters are rather cramped, however, and the chief justice and five justices will have to sit on one side of the long oak table.

Architect Clark, of the capitol, is advanced in age, and very feeble, so that the active work of investigating the cause of the explosion and of clearing away the wreck is in the hands of the assistant architect of the capitol, Mr. Wood.

"I have made a preliminary examination," said Mr. Wood to-day, "and am not yet ready to say what caused the explosion, although the main attention is being given to the gas supply. I find that the general damage sustained by the building is not as serious as at first supposed. The heavy furniture and the building do not appear to be discolored, the walls blown down are confined to the thin encircling walls, built to cover steam pipes. None of the heavy sustaining arches or pillars have given way so far as I can find. I will make a fuller examination, with better light later on, to make certain on these points. For the present it does not seem that a rebuilding of any part of the capitol will be necessary. The work will be that of repairing, and I hope we can finish this by the time Congress comes. We have a small balance for this, and in any event the work will be done."

An examination of the meter room, where the gas supplied to the capitol is measured, showed that the big meter had been blown to pieces. This satisfied most of the capitol officials that a gas explosion was responsible for the damage, but they would not express this view openly until an official inquiry had been made.

Several supreme court justices made a visit to the scene of the catastrophe during the forenoon. Chief Justice Fuller and Justice Harlan walked through the various departments, guided by a man with a lantern. While they looked at the scene of destruction with manifest interest, they made no remarks. They spent somewhat more time in the court room than elsewhere. There they found the upholstery and the court's new \$4,000 carpet greatly injured, but the two court clocks were ticking away as regularly and as dignified as ever. The busts of the former chief justices which line the walls of the old chamber were also uninjured, and this appeared to be a source of much gratification to the chief justice and his companion.

They found nothing but ruin and desolation in Marshal Wright's office. This room was completely gutted. No furniture escaped, and the walls of the room are as black as night, the effect of smoke and fire and water combined. While the damage was regretted, it was not considered irreparable.

The only damage that cannot be made good was done in the file room of the supreme court, in the basement, where were stored all the official records and the original copies of opinions from the foundation of the government. All these opinions have been printed, but the original manuscripts were highly valued.

This room was almost over the scene of the explosion, and it was one of the first compartments of the capitol to be attacked. The documents here were stored away in an orderly manner, in wooden cases, and none of them had any other protection, except the records of the court from 1792 to 1832, which were encased in tin boxes. The flames appear to have completely enveloped this room, but they were only sufficiently intense to badly char all the wood work and many of the documents. Comparatively few of the papers were absolutely destroyed, but those which suffered this fate were among the most valuable in

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our constitutions by overwork. Our women become nervous and irritable through neglect of ordinary precautions and sigh for vanished peace. If every one understood the vicious mechanism they would take immediate steps when attacked by nervousness or any other ailment.

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the room. They included the original opinions of the court in the early days of the republic, and among them were many manuscripts prepared in the handwriting of the jurists of the days of Washington, Jefferson and Adams.

There were in the list many opinions in manuscript written by Marshall, Story, Samuel Chase, Bushrod, Washington and others of the justices of the period between 1790 and 1830, and these were prized relics of the early days of the court. They were also occasionally referred to settle disputed points, concerning words or punctuation marks. These papers were stored under the arch of the room, and seem to have been preserved, and probably in good condition. They were encased in tin boxes, and these in turn placed within wooden cases. The debris in such disorder as to have rendered it impossible to open the wooden doors up to-day, but these doors were not broken, and any place, hence the belief that the papers themselves are intact.

Many of the more modern documents, including letters and opinions of recent date were also badly burned that it will be impossible to restore them, but none of these appear to have suffered such complete demolition as befell the early opinions. No documents affecting the present docket were injured.

The fire at one time threatened to invade the senate document room, reaching to within four or five feet of it. Mr. Asah Smith, the superintendent of the room, was on hand, prepared to assist in progress with the aid of the fire department, but the chances are that if it had gained headway in this department the damage would have been far more serious, as the apartment is extensive, and contains much exposed paper.

Sergeant-at-Arms Bright has telegraphed Senator McMillan concerning the use of the senator's committee room for the supreme court. If it is not convenient to continue its use, another committee room or if need be, the senate chamber, will be utilized as a court room.

DREYFUS DAILY LIFE

Description by a sailor who saw him on Devil's Island.

Memphis Commercial Appeal: In a recent issue of Kuch and Keller Karl Weinberger, cook of the Netherlands steamship Andalusia, gives this account of a visit to Devil's Island:

"Our ship Netherlands steamship Andalusia, was anchored off Devil's Island, and on April 1, after a visit to Cayenne, where we were hailed from the shore. At the same time a small boat put off, manned by soldiers.

"They came alongside to ask the captain for the loan of a cook. The cook of the little garrison had broken his arm, they said, and our cook was to teach one of their men, so that he might be able to attend to the kitchen until another one was sent by the commander.

"The captain sent me to the island, and while busy in the little kitchen instructing a soldier in the mysteries of broiling lamb chops and cooking pork, I had plenty of opportunity to question Captain Dreyfus' guards. The men who had at first seemed disinclined to speak, became quite loquacious after awhile.

"He was not so ill-treated as those in the world seemed to think; he is not confined; he can go everywhere on the island. Of course, two men are always at his heels. He gets up between 6 and 7 in the morning and his first breakfast consists of a cup of chocolate. If the weather is good he goes for a walk soon afterward and winds up his promenade with a bath.

"But you are not afraid he might swim away or commit suicide?" I asked.

"Not at all," said the soldiers, "for a rope is fastened to both of his wrists and the ends of the rope are in the hands of the guard. After the bath he takes his second breakfast—butter, bread, ham and eggs and a bottle of beer. Then he goes in for study. He writes and reads for several hours."

"What kind of books has he got?" The soldiers looked at each other. After awhile one of them said: "He is only allowed to read technical works. But he can write whatever he pleases. He is now writing an account of his life."

"Must he show you what he writes?" "No, we read only the letters he desires to have forwarded. These are sent to the commander in Cayenne."

"And does the commander send them off as received?" "No, they are copied, and the originals are retained at Cayenne."

"What does he do besides reading and writing?"

"Two weeks ago we received permission from the commander to play cards with the prisoner, and he has become an inveterate gambler since. After dinner—he has always soup, a roast and dessert—about 2 o'clock in the afternoon we always play baccarat together."

"What are the stakes?" "The soldier laughed. "He has not got a sou and there are probably not three francs on the whole island. We play for shells. The prisoner gets his supper at 6 in the evening—roast or ham and a bottle of beer. Soon afterward he goes to bed. He is not allowed to have any light, you know, only the guard at the door keeps up a wood fire. He says the hours from 8 to 10 are his. He cannot go to sleep before 10 o'clock and the guard is not allowed to

answer any question he may put. In the daytime we may talk to him, but only on most trifling subjects, the weather, his health, etc. Our own country is not to be mentioned."

"May I have some cigars for him?" The soldier did not answer. I emptied my tobacco pouch and my cigar case on the table. I hope he got what I left for him.

"As I was about to return to my ship I saw a man followed by two soldiers, approaching from the strand. Dreyfus seemed to have heard of my presence and measured me with questioning looks. His lips moved, but he did not speak. He is a middle-sized man, cadaverous and of a yellow complexion. His eyes are deep in their sockets, he walks with a stoop and his forehead is furrowed. He is growing old fast, no doubt."

"Dreyfus whispered with his guard, and when the latter nodded assent, walked up to me and placed my hand in his. 'Bring my good wishes to the wide world,' he said, in a voice quivering with emotion. Then he walked slowly toward his hut, where he remained standing at the door, waving his hand as my boat dashed into the billows. Half an hour later we were on our way home."

Electric Light Company Chartered. Special Dispatch to the Intelligencer.

CHARLESTON, W. Va., Nov. 7.—A charter has been issued by the secretary of state here to the Harper's Ferry Electric Light and Power Company, of Harper's Ferry, W. Va. The purpose of the company is to carry on the electric light and power business in the said town. The capital subscribed is \$15,000, with the privilege of increasing the same to \$150,000, the maximum. The shares are \$50 each, and are held by John A. Livers, of Gettysburg, Pa.; H. S. Kelly, of Hanover, Pa.; G. R. Brady, T. M. Conner, W. A. Winters, G. R. Marquett, J. Garland Hurst, Charles R. Trail, of Harper's Ferry, and B. D. Gibson, of Charles Town, W. Va.

West Virginia Pensions. Special Dispatch to the Intelligencer.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Nov. 7.—Pensions to West Virginia applicants have been granted as follows:

Renewal—James M. Baker, Cox's Landing, \$5.

Increase—John B. O'Neal, Wheeling, \$6 to \$8. William Lewis, Emma, \$8 to \$12. Widows—Matilda J. Kelly, Piedmont, \$8.

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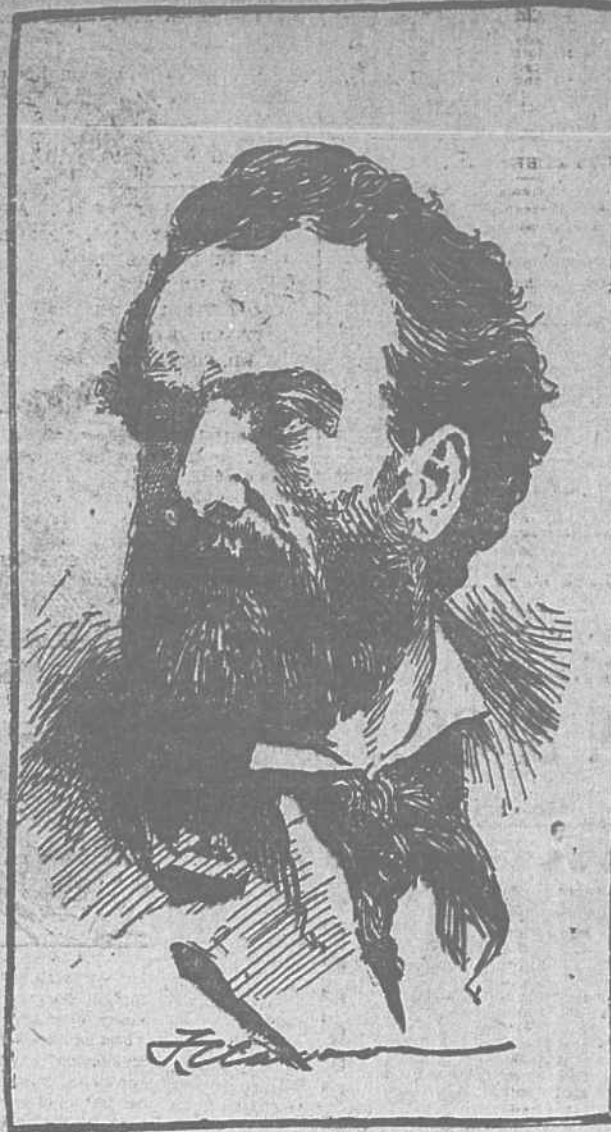
How John Did his Friend Tom a Good Turn Without Letting him Know.

Chicago Times-Herald: "John" and "Tom" are room-mates and chums. They are employed in an office in La Salle street. If John passes round the corner it is probable that Tom, if not keeping step alongside, will surely follow in a few minutes. The former is tall, white-faced and abstemious. Tom is low, stout, phlegmatic and inclined to be ruddy. Until very recently he was one of those who delighted in having a "good time."

A day or two before Christmas Tom was presented by a friend in a wholesale whisky establishment with a two-gallon jug of the best brand of rye. Tom took a "nip" on Christmas morning and invited a choice coterie of friends to sample it in the evening. They sang "Here's to good old whisky, drink it down," and pronounced it the best that ever happened.

By and by Tom took kindly to the jug and drank it at all hours of the day. John realized that his friend's position was in peril and determined on prompt action.

One afternoon while Tom's rubicund nose was chasing up and down a column of figures John hastened to the room. About half the contents of the jug had been consumed. He added about a pint of water. That evening the old circle of "good fellows" assembled, but they did not sing the same songs. The former eulogy of the chief article of entertainment was lacking. Tom did not detect the dilution and could not understand the strange apathy of his guests. Next morning and the next he took his customary drinks before eating, John al-



DENMARK'S GREAT POET.

Holger Drachmann Says That One of the Many Nice Things in America is Its Manhattan Cocktail.

Helger Henrik Herholat Drachmann, Denmark's great artist-poet, has come to the new world to admire its wonders, paint its scenery, and write of it as it seems to him.

Unlike Israel Zangwill, who has created such a sensation in theatrical circles by his criticism of modern drama, Drachmann does not intend to lecture during his stay, but to quote his own words, he is going "to live in this country, where the skies and trees are new and all nature is a hymn of independence."

This idol of his countrymen is tall, handsome, lithe, and strong; his youthful eyes are deep blue and his hair and beard are silvery white. He has the romanticism of Byron and the philosophy of Shelley.

During his youth Drachmann employ-

ed the greater part of his time in cultivating the artistic talents, which seemed in him more pronounced. He also had a leaning toward poetry, and would occasionally scribble a few verses on envelopes, on the margins of newspapers, or on the leaves of cigarette paper, but these he only showed or recited to a few friends, while his paintings went before the public.

So charming were his poems that the friends of Drachmann persuaded him to publish a few of the compositions, and the first effort that found its way in print was "Youth in Poetry and in Song," followed by "Young Blood" and others. "Krig Og Rus," his latest work, is described with the use of many adjectives by his admirers, and its success can be imagined from the fact that a snug fortune has already been reaped by the sale.

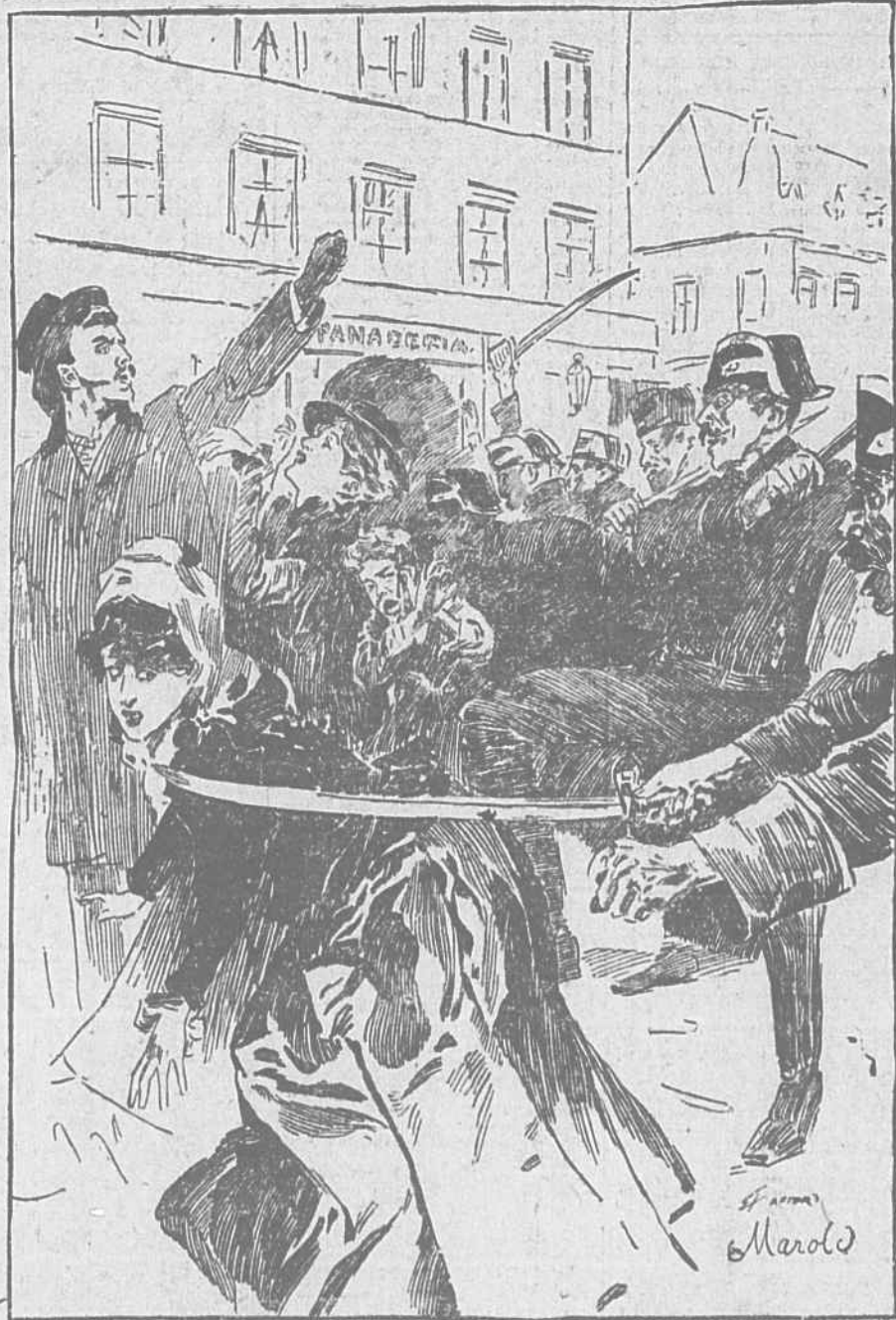
to the closet. "Somehow whisky don't taste to me as it used to. I have no more desire for the stuff."

"I haven't much desire for it myself," said John.

"I haven't a bit of use for it at all," said Tom.

John and Tom's friends in the office have decided that a trip to a dispensary cure institution is a needless expense, and the same results can be obtained under any ordinary conditions right here in Chicago and without a "shot" in the forearm.

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THE RIOTS IN PARIS.

Paris is in more danger at home than abroad; there have been the deadliest riots in the city, and the soldiers are marching up and down the city, while the people are shouting "Vive l'armee!" The police are afraid to use force, as several of their number were injured a few days ago in a riot, and it is feared that in one of these street scenes the present Government will be overthrown and a new one set up, as in the time of Louis and Elizabeth.

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